

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOLL REPEAT BERN 0215 ACTION SECSTATE QUOTE

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:MILI

SUBJECT:REQUEST FOR MUNITIONS CONTROL APPROVAL OF LICENS-
ING AGREEMENT BETWEEN MCDONNELL DOUGLAS AND CONTRAVES AG
(SWITZERLAND)

1. SPACE DEPARTMENT MANAGER OF CONTRAVES AG OF ZURICH
HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY RE DRAFT LICENSE, AND PRODUCTION
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS FIRM HAS DISCUSSED
WITH MCDONNELL DOUGLAS ASTRONAUTICS CO., HUNTINGTON BEACH,
CALIFORNIA FOR PAYLOAD FAIRING SEPARATION SYSTEM INVOLVING
EXPLOSIVES FOR USE IN ARIANE LAUNCH VEHICLE BEING
DEVELOPED BY EUROPEAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (ESRO).
AGREEMENTS REPORTEDLY SUBMITTED TO OFFICE OF MUNITIONS
CONTROL IN DECEMBER BY MCDONNELL DOUGLAS. CONTRAVES HOPES
USG CAN GIVE APPROVAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT AGREE-
MENTS CAN BECOME EFFECTIVE. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFOR-
MATION MAY BE HELPFUL TO CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES.

2. CONTRAVES REP SAID USG APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN LAST
SUMMER FOR EXPORT OF FINISHED FAIRING SEPARATION SYSTEMS
BY MCDONNELL DOUGLAS. HOWEVER, FRENCH SPACE AGENCY (CNES)
WHICH APPARENTLY HAS KEY ROLE IN ARIANE PROJECTS ARGUED
THAT CONTRAVES SHOULD DEVELOP EUROPEAN CAPABILITY FOR
PRODUCTION PAYLOAD FAIRING SEPARATION SYSTEM OR ALTERNATIVE-
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LY DEMONSTRATE THAT, IN EVENT MCDONNELL DOUGLAS SHOULD

CEASE PRODUCTION AND/OR USE SHOULD WITHDRAW OR FAIL RENEW

EXPORT APPROVAL, CONTRAVES HAD CAPABILITY PRODUCE IN MCDONNELL DOUGLAS SYSTEM FULLY MEETS ARIANE REQUIREMENTS AND CHOSE LATTER COURSE WHICH WILL INVOLVE MANUFACTURE OF TWO SYSTEMS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CAPABILITY AND THEREBY SATISFY ONES. IT PLANS PRODUCE REMAINDER FROM MCDONNELL DOUGLAS.

3. CONTRAVES AG IS PART OF OERLIKON-BUHRLE GROUP AND HAS BEEN PRIMARILY INVOLVED IN MILITARY PRODUCTION. MORE RECENTLY IT HAS DIVERSIFIED INTO SPACE, MEDICAL, AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. FIRM HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH RAYTHEON, LOCKHEED AND OTHER U.S. FIRMS AS WELL AS MCDONNELL DOUGLAS. U.S. SUBSIDIARIES ARE CONTRAVES - GOERTZ CORP., AND FECKER SYSTEMS, BOTH OF PITTSBURGH. FIRM ENJOYS EXCELLENT REPUTATION. (SEE WTDR AUGUST 1973)

4. WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT. DAVIS
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